Howland Wood - Curatorial

Watson, John G.

[Detroit Coin Club

Detroit, MI]

1925-1933

PRESIDENT. E. A. HOARE
1ST. V. PRES. HOWARD NEWCOMB
2ND. V. PRES. A. A. GRINNELL
SEC'Y.-TREAS. A. C. HUTCHINSON

Detroit Coin Club

Organized Feb. 15, 1924

Chapter of American Numismatic Association

DETROIT, MICH.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Z. DWORKAUSKI
H. H. HUDSON
HARRY W. RAPP

113 West Grand Boulevard.
Detroit. Michigan.
Sept. 27th/25.

Dear Sir,

I am deeply indebted to you for your letter of Sept. 23rd., with sketches of Corean, Annamese & Chinese coins identified.

May I further trespass on your kindness by asking if you will help me to identify the enclosed drawings of coins?

I also enclose a drawing of a curious piece I procured some years ago but have not been able to make anything of it up to the present. I asked Mr. Allen of the British Museum some time ago about it but he could make nothing of it.

May I ask if you could help me to identify some Chinese Amulets I have had in my possession for some years?

Thanking you in anticipation,
Believe me,
Yours very sincerely,
Jno. G. Watson.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Broadway.
New York.

October 21st, 1925

Mr. John G. Watson
113 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Excuse this long delay in replying to your letter and keeping the Chinese rubbings. The fact is that I was unable to make out two or three of them, and was holding them to show to a friend of mine who would be able to read them if anyone could! Those that I cannot make out, I am inclined to think are private tokens or amulets. The piece with the handle is very common, although all which I have seen are modern with fake patination. I do not know for what they were intended.

Very truly yours,

Encs.

Curator

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DETROIT, MICH.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS
Z. DWORKAUSKI
H. H. HUDSON
HARRY W. RAPP

113 W. Grand Boulevard.
Detroit. Michigan.
Oct. 25th. 1925.

Dear Sir,

I am extremely obliged for your kind letter of the 21st inst. with rubbings returned & coins identified.

I am afraid I have given you a great amount of trouble for which I apologize.

Perhaps at some future time I may trouble you again if I may?

I have written 2 letters to Mr. Newall at the same address as your letters but have had no reply, perhaps he is away.

Yours very sincerely
Geo. Stratton.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society
New York.

113 W. Grand Boulevard.
Detroit. Michigan.
June 1st 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
American Numismatic Society
New York.

Dear Sir,

Many thanks for your letter of May 28th just to hand.

In the course of a few days I will make up a parcel of coins (Chinese etc) and send them on for your inspection. Thanking you for the suggestion.

Yours truly

Geo. Gustave

113 West Grand Boulevard.
Detroit. Michigan.
Aug. 15th 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society.
New York.

Dear Sir,

May I still further trespass on your kindness and ask if you would interpret the reverses on some Korean coins of which I enclose sketches herewith?

I am greatly obliged for the interpretations of Japanese reverses and list of other marks to be found thereon.

Would you please accept the enclosed copy of a booklet comprising some articles I wrote for the Numismatic Circular some time ago?

Very sincerely yours.

Geo. Shorten,

August 19th, 1926

Mr.John G. Watson
113 West Grand Boulevard
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

Many thanks for your pamphlet on Common Chinese Coins. I did not have a copy of it but read the article some time ago in Spink's Circular, and I am very much pleased to add this to my collection.

I am returning, herewith, notes on the Corean coins, for which you asked.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

113 West Grand Boulevard.
Detroit, Michigan.
Aug. 27th/26.

Mr. Horsland Wood.
New York.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for the translations of Korean reverses received a few days ago. If I may still trespass on your kindness I should like you to give me some further translations, sketches of which I herewith enclose. On looking over some Chinese coins lately I found a character on the reverse of one of KUANG HSÜ, which I am not clear about. It also appears on a 10 cash piece of the Republic. The character is 拾, and is illustrated in the Stewart Lockhart book No. 1921. By cross references he gives the meaning as ten; is this ~~a new~~ another form of SHIH?

Summers in his "Handbook of the Chinese Language" gives the commencement of the 76th cycle as A.D. 1864. Now I find that the dates given in Stewart Lockhart is always a year different; I am referring to the later coins (copper) of KUANG HSÜ, several of which are dated by the year of the cycle. What do you think of this? I have two of the earlier coins of the same emperor with mint in Manchu on the reverse which Stewart Lockhart gives as doubtful. I am referring to S.L. Nos. 1908 & 1914, [illegible] & [illegible]. By 1908 is a cast piece but 1914 is coined, both in brass. In view of later researches is it possible now to place these?

I hope I have not wearied you, and should feel greatly obliged to you if you would help me with above.

Yours very truly
Geo. G. Watson

113 West Grand Boulevard.
Detroit. Mich.
Sept. 3rd 1926.

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thanks very much for your answers to my queries. I see now where my error of 1 year crept in regarding Chinese dates, as I have been adding the year for modern coins to 1864, the first year of the 76th cycle, ~~instead~~ but I should have also deducted 1 which makes it correct.

Did you get to the convention at Washington? I couldn't get away or should have been there.

Very truly yours.
Jno. Watson,

12095 Mettetal Avenue.
Detroit. Mich.
Oct 9th 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society
New York.

Dear Sir,

Since receiving your letter in June last I have tried unsuccessfully to procure a Chinese dictionary. Would it be possible for you to procure me the cheap one you mention as costing about a dollar or so? I should esteem it a great favour if you would do so, that is if not troubling you too much. Please let me know and I shall mail the money by return.

Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours sincerely
John G. Watson.

a Pocket Dictionary
Chauncey Goodrich
Shanghai
an Presbyterian Pr.

Times
Stewart
Brentano

October 28, 1927

Mr. John G. Watson,
12095 Mettetal Ave.,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

I have delayed answering your letter as I wished to see Mr. Reilly, who I thought might know more than I about Chinese dictionaries and possibly might be able to tell me where you could get one. He was unable to inform me. The dictionary I mean is called, "A Pocket Dictionary" by Chauncy Goodrich, published by the American Presbyterian Press, Shanghai, China. Why not try Kelly, Walsh? I think they have offices both at Shanghai and Yokohama. They are large book dealers.

Have you ever tried G. E. Stechert & Co., here in New York at 31 East 10th Street? I am pretty sure that some of the English book dealers can get it for you, such as Quaritch & Heffer or Keagan Paul. I very seldom get down town during business hours. Have been so tied up lately that I have not been shopping for several months.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

12095 Mettetal Avenue.
Detroit. Michigan.
Oct. 31st 1927.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society
New York.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you very much for your kind letter of Oct. 28th. Please accept my humble apology for the amount of trouble I have given you, I didn't realize this when I wrote to you regarding the Chinese Dictionary.

I have lately been classifying my Turkish, Egyptian & other similar coins from Mr. Valentine's book on Mohammedan coins and I find I have three or four not illustrated therein. If I could further trespass on your kindness I will send rubbings or drawings of these to you in a few days for your opinion on them.

Again thanking you,

Very truly yours
Geo. Watson.

November 3, 1927

Mr. John G. Watson,
12095 Mettetal Ave.,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

I shall be very glad to try to classify any of the Mohammedan coins you find you cannot fathom. I was funny that the day after I wrote you I found that little clipping in the "Times Magazine." I hope they have what you want.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW:MB

12095 Mettetal Ave.
Detroit, Michigan.
Nov. 6th 1924.

Mr. H. Wood.
Curator.
American Numismatic Society
New York.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of Nov. 3rd just to hand, and also for the newspaper cutting re Chinese Dictionaries. I have already written to the address given.

I enclose rubbing of a large coin, the coin is rather worn hence the rubbing is not very clear but the Hijira year is ١٢٢٢ = 1223 & the regnal year is ٢٦ = 26, and I think it is the Constantinople mint mark. The other two pieces are sent herewith, the smaller of the two was given to me by a French doctor whom I met in Europe some years ago. he was then residing at Smyrna and I think he said something about it being scarce. None of the above are illustrated in Valentine's book. I should be obliged if you would look over them and let me know what you think of them.

Yours very truly
John G. Watson.

9th November, 1927

Mr. John G. Watson,
12095 Mettetal Avenue,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

I am herewith returning your coins and the attributions for them. They are all Turkish coins. The reason you did not find them in Valentine is that they are classed as base metal or silver coins, and he only described copper coins.

Very truly yours,

Curator

12095 Whittal Ave.
Detroit, Mich.
Sept 16th 28

Mr. Howland Wood
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I had hoped to meet you at Rochester, N.Y., when I attended the A.N.A. Convention.

May I further impose on your good nature by asking you to help me with the following questions.

I have been looking over my coins of the MING Dynasty & am a little confused over the different lists of Emperors of this Dynasty. Stewart Lockhart is not complete and varies with other lists I have consulted. Apparently the most complete is the one I have copied & enclosed, it is from Summer's "Handbook of the Chinese Language".

I should be obliged if you would look over it & erase those not correct or add those required.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours very truly,
John G. Watson.

18th September, 1928

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Watson:

I was sorry not to have been at the Rochester Convention, but I was spending the summer in New Hampshire and did not want to break away.

I am returning your list of the Ming Emperors and you will note I have made one or two changes. The first column contains the names of the Emperors and the last column, their Miao Hoan, which are the titles found on the coins. This is from Deolittle's list which agrees, as far as I know, with the most modern lists.

Sincerely yours,

Curator

12095 Puritan Ave
Detroit, Mich
Sept. 23rd 1928.

Dr. Howland Wood,
Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. Wood,

I thank you for your letter of Sept. 18th with corrected list of Roman Emperors. I find I have 10 of the emperors represented in my collection. Perhaps you would look over enclosed list and let me know if coins are known of these and if so are they difficult to procure?

I should also feel greatly obliged if you would give me particulars of Doolittle's book which you quote.

Again thanking you

Sincerely Yours
John S. Boston.

25th September, 1928

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I think that you have all of the Ming Emperors that are easily obtainable. In looking through my list I find only the last one checked in an early book of mine that showed what I had a number of years ago. Coins are known of all of the Ming you have given and I have carried against each the inscriptions found on their coins. Sometimes one runs across coins of such inscriptions but they are apt to be counterfeits.

Mostitsin's book costs, when one can get hold of it, quite a little money. It is in two volumes and is so crowded full of a lot of useful facts for the Chinese scholar. Keeping your eyes open you might be able to pick one up in some English book catalogue. That it would cost I do not know. I am herewith enclosing the transcript from the title-page.

Very truly yours,

Curator

12095 Rettelat Ave.
Detroit, Mich.
Sept. 29th/28.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator
The American Numismatic Society
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thanks very much for your letter of the 25th inst., with notes re Roman Emperors.

I am writing to Mr. Gravely of Martinsville to see if he has a copy of Woodward's book. If I fail to get it soon I am afraid I will have to trouble you with more questions of the other Dynasties, more imposition on your good nature.

Yours very truly
John G. Morton

12095 Rettetal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
Oct. 14th 1928.

Dr. Howland Wood.
Curator
The American Numismatic Society.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Dr. Wood,

Just a line to let you know I have just received a copy of the Rev. Justus Doolittle's "Vocabulary & Handbook of the Chinese Language". I got it from Dr. Gravely of Martinsville, Virginia, the address you sent me a year or so ago. It, of course is a second-hand copy, the binding is damaged, but the inside is almost perfect and it cost me $7.50. The second volume Part III, is indeed a veritable Gehspaedia and will be most useful to me. The bookseller says the book is rare, do you think I could have got it cheaper even in England?

Very truly yours.
Jno. E. Watson.

17th October, 1923

Mr. John C. Watson,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I am glad that you got Bewlifield's Boundary and if you received the complete set you act it quite enough. I very much doubt if you would have gotten it as cheap in England.

Very truly yours,

Compiler

12095 Rettetal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
November 14th 1928.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Sir,

I should feel greatly obliged if you would answer me a few questions relating to Korean coins if not too much trouble and providing you have the time to do so. The earliest coins I have are of the TONG KUK period of which I should like the exact date. I have 934 to 1392 A.D. Have there other periods within this space of time? The next I have has 朝一鮮 which I put down to 1392 A.D. How long were these coins issued? Between this I have nothing up to the SIA FENG period. Would you please let me know if there were many periods after the CH'AO HSIEN period up to the SIA FENG & also the exact dates of the SIA FENG period? And any other information relating to Korean currency I should be glad to have.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Very truly yours.

John G. Waters.

Thank & plead for pt
Vol 1. Vol II 1907 Vol 3
500

19th November, 1928

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Sir:

In reply to your letter about Korean coins, I am giving you a transcript of all of the Korean copper pieces with central holes. You will see that they only issue these coins in two or three [illegible] There is a most excellent account of Korean coins published in volume III of the Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan. These are very rare now, and complete sets, especially volume IV(which was the last), are difficult to obtain. The volume contains six numbers and was issued at $2.00. I happen to have a duplicate set of volume I and of Volume III, and parts 3, 4, and 5 of volume II. These I would sell for $5.00.

Very truly yours,

Curator

2095 Mellelal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
Nov. 24th 1928.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator.
The American Numismatic Society.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Sir,

I am greatly obliged for your kind letter with the transcripts of Corean coins, this will help me wonderfully.

Regarding the "Numismatic & Philatelic Journal of Japan" I should be pleased if you would send me your duplicate sets as quoted by you. I presume there are other interesting articles on Far Eastern Coins.

I enclose $5.00 Bill for same.

Again thanking you.

Yours very truly
John S. Watson.

28th November, 1928

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sir:

I will have the Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan sent to you at once, and I think that you will find them of much interest.

Very truly yours,

Curator

12095 Rettetal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
Dec 3rd. 1928.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator
The American Numismatic Society.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your letter of the 28th. ult., and also for the parcel of Numismatic & Philatelic Journals of Japan received on Saturday last. I have scarcely had time to look over them yet, but they seem very interesting.

I will be writing in a day or two.

Very truly yours.
John J. Eaton.

12095 Mettetal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
Dec. 8th 1928.

Mr. Howland Wood.
Curator
The American Numismatic Society.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

I have to thank you for the parcel of Numismatic & Philatelic Journals of Japan you sent me last week. I have had a good look over them & think they will be very useful to me. If I remember rightly there were only about 4 volumes issued when Mr. Hamsden passed away. Naturally I should like to complete the issue so if you can hear of any copies that would complete my set I should thank you to let me know.

Did you read my paper in the November Numismatist? I should be pleased to know what you think of it. Of course it was written for beginners mainly with a view to create or increase the taste for the Eastern numismatics. I propose next year to deal with the coins issued at the close of the Ming & beginning of the Ta Ch'ing Dynasties, and, if I am spared, to continue backwards to the earliest times, dealing with the cash only. When completed it may form a useful & cheap series for beginners. Do you think the idea is all right?

Very sincerely Yours
Thos. G. Walton.

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常 SANG
平 PIUNG
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景 CANH
興 HUNG
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TRUNG
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山 SON
西 TAY
18

泰 THAI
德 DUC
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嘉 GIA
隆 LONG
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嗣 TU
德 DUC
21

通
T'UNG — CHINESE.
TSU — JAPANESE.
THONG — ANNAMESE.
TONG — COREAN.

寶
PAO — CHINESE.
HO — JAPANESE.
BOA — ANNAMESE.
PO — COREAN.

22

12095 Mettelal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
Jan. 12th 1929.

I wrote you in the early part of December last acknowledging the receipt of some copies of "The Numismatic & Philatelic Journal of Japan" which [illegible] the new Emperor?

[illegible]

[illegible]

23d January, 1929

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Watson:

Please pardon me for not replying to your letter of December 8th sooner. The fact is that for the past six weeks I have been very busy with our Annual meeting, not only my own reports for the year but making reports for the chairmen of various committees.

I am glad that you like the Philatelic and Numismatic Journal of Japan. There is a good deal of information tucked away in these volumes. I put off answering your letter also because I was intending to look at the November Numismatist. As a matter of fact, I have not done more than glance through the pages of the Numismatist for several months, as I have been more than busy at home, but when I do read it I will certainly let you know. There is, as you of course know, a great deal of history, and interesting history, and interesting coinages of the period during the end of the Ming and the beginning of the Ch'ing Dynastics, and it is not awfully hard to deal with, so that you really ought to get a most interesting article. Chinese numismatics, if written by an enthusiast (which you appear to be), could be made extremely popular, and as the coins are plentiful and for the most part really cheap, there ought to be many more collectors of them if there were any incentive and help to understand them. I really would advise you to try to popularize this subject.

The name of the period in Japanese history just prior to the present emperor was 'Tai Sho'. I really do not know the period of the present emperor. This you should be able to get easily by writing to the Japanese Consul here in New York. If you do get it, let me know. If I find out shortly, I will let you know.

Sincerely yours,

Curator

12095 Prentiss Avenue.

[illegible] 20th '92

[illegible]

[illegible] seen [illegible]

[illegible]

grateful for your courtesy and help. Enthusiastic I am, and my enthusiasm only limited by my ~~pocket~~ purse. I am really anxious to promote the study of Eastern Coins, this has been my aim for some time.

I am preparing a paper to read at our local coin club on the similarity of the coins of China, Japan, Corea & Annam. I have had some photographs taken [illegible] time in the midst of my professional duties to answer me one question I should feel greatly obliged. In the Annamese series I find various [illegible]

CAN HUNG THAI D C

16 & 19th. The date of the former is given as 1740-85 & the latter 1764-86 and th[illegible]

30th January, 1929

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Mr. Watson:

It is perfectly easy to reconcile the conflicting dates on the Annamese coins. Canh Hung was the last of the Le Dynasty; beginning about 1459 various rebels started up and we have at least ten different coin types from these rebels. Outside of the Mac family none apparently held on for long. In 1764 a real opposition came up in the Western Mountains; this was known as the Tay Son rebellion. Nguyen Nhoc struck coins with Thai Duc on them between 1771 and 1792: this is your symbol 19. During nearly all of the period of Annamese coinage there were rebel coins, showing that the rulers did not have clear sailing. Also, the country was often divided up into halves and thirds.

Very truly yours,

12095 Prettetal Avenue.
Detroit, Mich.
March 27th 1929.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator.
American Numismatic Society.
New York. N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood,

Thanks very much for your letter of the 18th March in reply to my query re Mexican coin.

I regret it hasn't been answered before now, but the fact is I am preparing to leave the U.S. for England.

I hope to be in New York towards the end of April and will make an effort to see you in person.

In case I don't, please accept my best thanks for your prompt replies to my many enquiries, which I am afraid have been somewhat irksome for you at times, but I can assure you I appreciate your courtesy very much, and, although I will be over at the other side of the Atlantic, I hope you won't mind me still bothering you with any questions or difficulties that may arise on Numismatic problems.

Believe me,
Yours very sincerely
John G. Watson.

29th March, 1929

Mr. John G. Watson,
Detroit, Mich.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I trust that on your way back to England you will be able to pay us a visit. Although the building will be closed, by ringing the bell you can get in. If by any chance I am not here, my assistant, Mr. Robertson, would be pleased to show you anything you may care to see. Do not hesitate to call upon me after you leave this country.

Sincerely yours,

Curator

19223 Maple View.
Detroit, Michigan.
Nov. 29th. 1933.

Mr. H. Wood.
The American Numismatic Society.
New York.

Dear Sir,

I should be very much obliged if you could find time to look over the inclosed drawings and rubbings and give me dates and rulers of same.

Probably some of the Indian drawings are inverted, would it be too much trouble to indicate these?

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely.

John G. Watson.

December 12, 1933.

Mr. John G. Watson
19223 Maple View
Detroit, Michigan.

Dear Sir:

Please pardon the delay in returning your drawings of Indian coins as it was only the other day I had a chance to look these up. As the writing is so small on your silver Fathimide coin I cannot make out the date or the ruler. Also the little coin just under this on your rubbing. I however have seen this piece but cannot place it from your rubbing. I have also seen the Chinese coin but do not find these characters in any of my indexes of Chinese coins. I think it is a talisman.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator